

Written Statement of
Trung Lam, Executive Director

before the
Senate Committee of Transportation
And
Senate Committee of Economic Development and Tourism

Tuesday, February 10, 2026
3:01 pm
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of
SB 2693

RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR AEROSPACE INFRASTRUCTURE

Chairs Inouye and Decoite, Vice Chairs Elefante and Wakai, and Members of the Committees.

HTDC is committed to advancing Hawai'i as a leading technology innovation hub in the Pacific, with a strategic focus on the space and ocean sectors. SB2693 is of significant interest to HTDC because it proposes a major capital investment in aerospace infrastructure at Hilo International Airport. This initiative aligns closely with our mission to foster technology-based economic development and to catalyze growth in the aerospace industry, which is a critical component of Hawai'i's innovation ecosystem.

The development of aerospace infrastructure can generate positive ripple effects across related industries, including advanced manufacturing as well as space and ocean domain awareness, supporting the diversification of our economy. The proposed project at Hilo International Airport has the potential to attract new ventures, support existing companies, and create high-quality jobs, clustered strategically in a concentrated geographic area.

By requiring matching contributions from federal and private sector partners, the bill encourages collaboration and leverages additional investment, which is consistent with best practices in public-private partnerships.

We appreciate the Legislature's attention to this opportunity and look forward to supporting its successful execution.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Written Testimony

In Support of SB 2693 Relating to Capital Improvement Projects for Aerospace Infrastructure

To:

House Committee on Transportation
House Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Hearing Date/Time: February 10, 3:01 PM

Position: Support

Submitted by:

Fenix Space, Inc.
Jason Lee, CEO
294 Leland Norton Way, Ste 3, San Bernardino, CA 92408

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committees,

Fenix Space, Inc. respectfully submits testimony in support of SB 2693, which authorizes capital improvement funding for the planning, design, and construction of an aerospace hangar and related facilities including advanced aerospace electronics manufacturing, assembly, and inspection at Hilo International Airport.

Fenix Space is a U.S.-based aerospace company developing next-generation, aircraft-based launch-on-demand space access systems. As part of our long-term planning, we are actively evaluating potential operating locations that offer the right combination of geography, airspace, infrastructure, and workforce potential. From our perspective, Hawai‘i — and Hawai‘i Island in particular — presents unique advantages for advanced aerospace and aviation activities.

Modern aerospace operations increasingly depend on airport-compatible infrastructure rather than large, single-purpose facilities. Access to suitable hangar space and support facilities is often a key factor in determining whether companies can realistically establish operations in a location. Infrastructure investments like those envisioned in SB 2693 will therefore play a critical role in enabling aerospace activity in the State.

We also appreciate that SB 2693 requires dollar-for-dollar matching contributions from federal or private sources. This structure helps ensure that public investment is paired with demonstrated market commitment and real demand, while promoting responsible development.

Facilities of this type can support multiple users over time and help lay the groundwork for a durable aerospace presence on Hawai‘i Island. Such infrastructure will contribute to skilled employment opportunities, workforce development partnerships, and increased engagement with local vendors and service providers.

Fenix Space views investments in shared-use aerospace infrastructure as beneficial to the State regardless of which specific tenants ultimately occupy the facility. Any future tenancy by our company would follow standard commercial leasing processes, regulatory approvals, and community engagement.

SB 2693 is a forward-looking investment in Hawai‘i’s ability to participate in the growing aerospace sector and to remain competitive in attracting advanced aviation activities. We appreciate the Legislature’s leadership in considering infrastructure that supports emerging industries in a prudent and structured manner.

For these reasons, Fenix Space respectfully supports SB 2693.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-2693

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:30:28 AM
Testimony for TRS on 2/10/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mohammed Irfan Rashed	Testifying for University of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I've worked for Aerospace Engineering since many years and I totally support this move to uplift the Aerospace infrastructure in Hawaii. We need more satellite development here with more launches from this land with re-usable rockets. I also support Fenix Space and many others who can uplift and grow Space technology in Hawaii.

SB-2693

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:31:40 AM
Testimony for TRS on 2/10/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew, H., Madayag	Testifying for Hawaii Spaceflight Laboratory	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Committee Members,

My name is Matthew Madayag, and I am an Engineer at the Hawai‘i Space Flight Laboratory (HSFL) at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I submit this testimony in strong support of SB 581.

HSFL designs, builds, and operates spacecraft and aerospace systems while training Hawai‘i’s next generation of engineers and scientists. Through partnerships with NASA, the Department of Defense, and industry, we bring federal research funding and high-technology workforce development opportunities to the state.

Building up aerospace infrastructure such as a new hanger in Hilo will strengthen coordination across government, academia, and industry. Increase local STEM talent retention and attraction. Grow federal and private investments. Hawai‘i is uniquely positioned geographically and strategically to contribute to the growing aerospace sector, and this bill supports long-term economic diversification.

I respectfully urge the Committees to pass SB 581.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Matthew Madayag

SB-2693

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:20:25 AM
Testimony for TRS on 2/10/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miguel Nunes	Testifying for Hawaii Space Flight Laboratory	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit testimony in strong support of this measure relating to capital improvement projects for aerospace infrastructure at Hilo International Airport.

Investment in aerospace and advanced aviation infrastructure represents a meaningful opportunity for Hawai‘i to advance economic diversification, workforce development, and national security relevance. This bill takes a pragmatic and responsible step toward realizing that opportunity and provides a clear pathway for investing in Hawai‘i’s future—especially the future of our keiki.

Hawai‘i’s geographic location in the Pacific, combined with existing aviation infrastructure and proximity to critical U.S. defense and research activities, places the State in a uniquely competitive position. However, this potential can only be realized through intentional public investment in enabling infrastructure. The proposed aerospace hangar and support facilities represent assets that can unlock private capital, federal partnerships, and sustain high-value aerospace activity in the State.

These areas are among the fastest-growing segments of the aerospace economy and align well with Hawai‘i’s potential. The aerospace industry is expected to continue to grow significantly over the next decade and offers strong return-on-investment opportunities. Infrastructure that supports these activities responds directly to demonstrated interest from industry, defense, and research users.

At the University of Hawaii and the Hawai‘i Space Flight Laboratory, we are training the next generation of the aerospace workforce for Hawaii. UH now offers two minors with hands-on aerospace capstone projects, and this program is currently at maximum capacity. We are expected to continue to grow these programs. Our students learn how to design, build, and operate aerospace missions and frequently graduate with job offers from NASA and major aerospace companies, including Raytheon, SpaceX, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, and Blue Origin. Many of these students tell us they want to work in Hawai‘i—or return soon to start families and build careers at home. Strategic infrastructure investments that align state government, academic research, and private industry can help make that possible.

It is also relevant that this bill's dollar-for-dollar matching requirement ensures that State investment is leveraged by federal and private funds. This structure reduces risk to taxpayers while maximizing economic impact and signals that Hawai'i is a serious and reliable long-term partner.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your leadership in advancing Hawai'i's aerospace future.

Respectfully,
Miguel Nunes, Ph.D.
Aerospace Engineer
Director, Hawai'i Space Flight Laboratory
Assistant Professor, University of Hawai'i

To: Members of the Hawai‘i State Senate

Re: **Support for Senate Bill SB2693 (2026) — Capital Improvement Project for Aerospace Infrastructure**

Aloha Chairs Inouye and DeCoite, and Members of the Senate Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for **Senate Bill SB2693 (2026)** as a Hawai‘i resident. This bill would authorize the issuance of **\$15 million** to support the **planning, design, and construction of an aerospace hangar and related infrastructure at Hilo International Airport**, contingent on matching contributions from federal and private partners.

As Hawai‘i seeks to build a diversified, resilient economy that offers meaningful career pathways for our students and communities, **strategic investments in aerospace and advanced aviation infrastructure are essential**. Hawai‘i’s geographic position in the Pacific, existing aviation capabilities, and proximity to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command uniquely position our state to support aerospace research, testing, and operations. SB2693 represents a forward-looking step to:

- **Attract Federal and Private Investment.** By requiring a dollar-for-dollar match, the bill leverages state funding to draw in federal and private sector capital, maximizing the impact of public investment.
- **Expand Workforce Development.** The construction and operation of aerospace facilities will create high-wage jobs and strengthen workforce pathways for Hawai‘i Island residents, particularly in STEM, engineering, aviation, and related technical fields. As a university employee, I see firsthand the importance of creating **clear local career opportunities** for graduates in cutting-edge industries.
- **Support Regional Economic Growth.** Enhancing Hilo’s aerospace infrastructure will drive economic activity on the island and statewide — from construction jobs to long-term operational and research collaborations — while reinforcing Hawai‘i’s role in national defense, innovation, and regional connectivity.
- **Strengthen UH Community Engagement.** The University of Hawai‘i system already contributes to aerospace-related education, research, and community partnerships. Investment in nearby infrastructure can further expand opportunities for UH students and faculty to participate in internships, applied research, and industry collaborations.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your **favorable consideration of SB2693**. This measure aligns with long-term economic, educational, and workforce priorities vital to the people of Hawai‘i Island and statewide communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessica Seuh

Operations Manager

Hawai‘i Science and Technology Museum

SB-2693

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:34:19 AM
Testimony for TRS on 2/10/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Piper Kline	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Piper Kline, and I am a research assistant at the Hawai‘i Space Flight Laboratory at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. At our lab, we develop satellite missions and space technologies that support scientific research while also providing hands-on engineering experience for students preparing to enter the aerospace workforce.

One of the many barriers to accessing space is the high cost of launch services. This bill would help support the growth of aerospace capabilities in Hawai‘i, lowering barriers to participation and enabling programs like ours to continue advancing research and workforce development in the state.

For these reasons, I respectfully support this bill and appreciate your consideration. Thank you.

To: Members of the Hawai'i State Senate

Re: **Support for Senate Bill SB2693 (2026) — Capital Improvement Project for Aerospace Infrastructure**

Aloha Chairs Inouye and DeCoite, and Members of the Senate Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for **Senate Bill SB2693 (2026)** as a small business owner in Hawaii. This bill would authorize the issuance of \$15 million in general obligation bonds to support the planning, design, and construction of an aerospace hangar and related infrastructure at Hilo International Airport, contingent upon matching contributions from federal and private partners.

As Hawai'i seeks to build a diversified, resilient economy that offers meaningful career pathways for our students and communities, strategic investments in aerospace and advanced aviation infrastructure are essential. Hawai'i's geographic position in the Pacific, existing aviation capabilities, and proximity to key federal partners uniquely position our state to support aerospace research, testing, and operations. SB2693 represents a forward-looking investment that will help realize this potential.

In our role at Pacific Impact Zone, we are closely connected to the work of the local space industry that is growing year-after-year. Our work intersects aerospace and defense and is growing commercial activities across the islands in Hawai'i and we acutely see that capabilities such as would be enabled by SB2693 would not only diversify economic activities to the neighbor islands but also builds exquisite capabilities not easily found across the country.

Beyond industry collaboration, SB2693 will help:

- **Attract Federal and Private Investment** by leveraging state funding through required matching contributions.
- **Expand Workforce Development** opportunities in STEM, engineering, aviation, and technical fields, providing UH students with clearer local career pathways.
- **Support Regional Economic Growth** by creating construction jobs and long-term, high-wage employment opportunities tied to aerospace and research activities.
- **Strengthen University–Community Partnerships** by expanding opportunities for applied research, internships, and educational collaboration close to campus.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your **favorable consideration of SB2693**. This measure aligns with long-term economic, educational, and workforce priorities that are vital to Hawai'i Island and the State of Hawai'i.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Mahalo,
Kevin Miyashiro
CEO
Pacific Impact Zone

SB-2693

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:17:03 PM
Testimony for TRS on 2/10/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Baicy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the measure authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds to finance the planning, design, and construction of a 50,000 square foot aerospace hangar and related facilities at Hilo International Airport.

This investment represents a strategic opportunity for the State to expand high-value aerospace, aviation, and technology-related activity on Hawai‘i Island. Purpose-built aerospace infrastructure is essential to attracting federal partners, private-sector tenants, and research initiatives that require secure, specialized hangar and support facilities. The requirement for matching contributions from both the federal government and private industry ensures that State funds will be leveraged effectively and responsibly.

Hilo International Airport is uniquely positioned to support aerospace operations due to its geographic location, airspace characteristics, and proximity to **scientific, educational, and research institutions**. Development of this facility would create skilled jobs, support workforce development, and diversify the local economy beyond traditional sectors. It would also strengthen Hawai‘i’s role in national aerospace, defense, and research efforts while providing long-term economic benefits to the State.

I also support the provision requiring reporting to the Legislature prior to the 2028 Regular Session, which promotes transparency, accountability, and informed oversight of the project’s progress and outcomes.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support this measure and advance it through the legislative process. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

SB-2693

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:39:54 PM
Testimony for TRS on 2/10/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makana Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Members of the Hawai'i State Senate
Re: Support for Senate Bill SB2693 (2026) — Capital Improvement Project for Aerospace Infrastructure

Aloha mai e Chairs Inouye and DeCoite, and Members of the Senate Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill SB2693 (2026) as a Hawai'i resident. This bill would authorize the issuance of \$15 million to support the planning, design, and construction of an aerospace hangar and related infrastructure at Hilo International Airport, contingent on matching contributions from federal and private partners.

As Hawai'i seeks to build a diversified, resilient economy that offers meaningful career pathways for our students and communities, strategic investments in aerospace and advanced aviation infrastructure are essential. Hawai'i's geographic position in the Pacific, existing aviation capabilities, and proximity to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command uniquely position our state to support aerospace research, testing, and operations. SB2693 represents a forward-looking step to:

- **Attract Federal and Private Investment.** By requiring a dollar-for-dollar match, the bill leverages state funding to draw in federal and private sector capital, maximizing the impact of public investment.
- **Expand Workforce Development.** The construction and operation of aerospace facilities will create high-wage jobs and strengthen workforce pathways for Hawai'i Island residents, particularly in STEM, engineering, aviation, and related technical fields. As a university employee, I see firsthand the importance of creating clear local career opportunities for graduates in cutting-edge industries.
- **Support Regional Economic Growth.** Enhancing Hilo's aerospace infrastructure will drive economic activity on the island and statewide — from construction jobs to long-term operational and research collaborations — while reinforcing Hawai'i's role in national defense, innovation, and regional connectivity.

- **Strengthen UH Community Engagement.** The University of Hawai‘i system already contributes to aerospace-related education, research, and community partnerships. Investment in nearby infrastructure can further expand opportunities for UH students and faculty to participate in internships, applied research, and industry collaborations.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of SB2693. This measure aligns with long-term economic, educational, and workforce priorities vital to the people of Hawai‘i Island and statewide communities.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Me ke aloha pumehana,
Makana Silva
Director's Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Los Alamos National Laboratory

SB-2693

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:05:57 PM
Testimony for TRS on 2/10/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Hong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Members of the Hawai'i State Senate
Re: Support for Senate Bill SB2693 (2026) — Capital Improvement Project for Aerospace Infrastructure

Aloha Chairs Inouye and DeCoite, and Members of the Senate Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill SB2693 (2026) as a Hawai'i resident. This bill would authorize the issuance of \$15 million to support the planning, design, and construction of an aerospace hangar and related infrastructure at Hilo International Airport, contingent on matching contributions from federal and private partners.

As Hawai'i seeks to build a diversified, resilient economy that offers meaningful career pathways for our students and communities, strategic investments in aerospace and advanced aviation infrastructure are essential. Hawai'i's geographic position in the Pacific, existing aviation capabilities, and proximity to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command uniquely position our state to support aerospace research, testing, and operations. SB2693 represents a forward-looking step to:

- **Attract Federal and Private Investment.** By requiring a dollar-for-dollar match, the bill leverages state funding to draw in federal and private sector capital, maximizing the impact of public investment.
- **Expand Workforce Development.** The construction and operation of aerospace facilities will create high-wage jobs and strengthen workforce pathways for Hawai'i Island residents, particularly in STEM, engineering, aviation, and related technical fields. As a university employee, I see firsthand the importance of creating clear local career opportunities for graduates in cutting-edge industries.
- **Support Regional Economic Growth.** Enhancing Hilo's aerospace infrastructure will drive economic activity on the island and statewide — from construction jobs to long-term operational and research collaborations — while reinforcing Hawai'i's role in national defense, innovation, and regional connectivity.

- **Strengthen UH Community Engagement.** The University of Hawai‘i system already contributes to aerospace-related education, research, and community partnerships. Investment in nearby infrastructure can further expand opportunities for UH students and faculty to participate in internships, applied research, and industry collaborations.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of SB2693. This measure aligns with long-term economic, educational, and workforce priorities vital to the people of Hawai‘i Island and statewide communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Daniel Hong

Aloha Chairs Inouye and DeCoite, and Members of the Senate Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for **Senate Bill SB2693 (2026)** as a resident of Hawai'i Island. This bill would authorize the issuance of \$15 million in general obligation bonds to support the planning, design, and construction of an aerospace hangar and related infrastructure at Hilo International Airport, contingent upon matching contributions from federal and private partners.

As Hawai'i seeks to build a diversified, resilient economy that offers meaningful career pathways for our students and communities, strategic investments in aerospace and advanced aviation infrastructure are essential. Hawai'i's geographic position in the Pacific, existing aviation capabilities, and proximity to key federal partners uniquely position our state to support aerospace research, testing, and operations. SB2693 represents a forward-looking investment that will help realize this potential.

In my role at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, I am part of the **Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES)** team. I have participated in meetings with **Fenix Aerospace**, a private company that has expressed strong interest in utilizing the proposed aerospace facilities at Hilo International Airport. These discussions have also included the **Hawai'i Department of Transportation** and the **Mayor's Office**, demonstrating meaningful coordination across public, private, and community stakeholders. The plans discussed to date are promising, and I look forward to future collaborations with this company that could benefit students, researchers, and the broader Hawai'i Island community.

Beyond industry collaboration, SB2693 will help:

- **Attract Federal and Private Investment** by leveraging state funding through required matching contributions.
- **Expand Workforce Development** opportunities in STEM, engineering, aviation, and technical fields, providing UH students with clearer local career pathways.
- **Support Regional Economic Growth** by creating construction jobs and long-term, high-wage employment opportunities tied to aerospace and research activities.
- **Strengthen University–Community Partnerships** by expanding opportunities for applied research, internships, and educational collaboration close to campus.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your **favorable consideration of SB2693**. This measure aligns with long-term economic, educational, and workforce priorities that are vital to Hawai'i Island and the State of Hawai'i.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,
Amber Imai-Hong
PISCES Engineer and Project Manager

To: Members of the Hawai'i State Senate

Re: **Support for Senate Bill SB2693 (2026) — Capital Improvement Project for Aerospace Infrastructure**

Aloha Chairs Inouye and DeCoite, and Members of the Senate Committee,

I am submitting as an individual and a Hawai'i resident. I am writing to express my strong support for **Senate Bill SB2693 (2026)**. This bill would authorize the issuance of **\$15 million** to support the **planning, design, and construction of an aerospace hangar and related infrastructure at Hilo International Airport**, contingent on matching contributions from federal and private partners.

As Hawai'i seeks to build a diversified, resilient economy that offers meaningful career pathways for our students and communities, **strategic investments in aerospace and advanced aviation infrastructure are essential**. Hawai'i's geographic position in the Pacific, existing aviation capabilities, and proximity to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command uniquely position our state to support aerospace research, testing, and operations. SB2693 represents a forward-looking step to:

- **Attract Federal and Private Investment.** By requiring a dollar-for-dollar match, the bill leverages state funding to draw in federal and private sector capital, maximizing the impact of public investment.
- **Expand Workforce Development.** The construction and operation of aerospace facilities will create high-wage jobs and strengthen workforce pathways for Hawai'i Island residents, particularly in STEM, engineering, aviation, and related technical fields. In my professional career, I see firsthand the importance of creating **clear local career opportunities** for graduates in cutting-edge industries.
- **Support Regional Economic Growth.** Enhancing Hilo's aerospace infrastructure will drive economic activity on the island and statewide — from construction jobs to long-term operational and research collaborations — while reinforcing Hawai'i's role in national defense, innovation, and regional connectivity.
- **Strengthen UH Community Engagement.** The University of Hawai'i system already contributes to aerospace-related education, research, and community partnerships. Investment in nearby infrastructure can further expand opportunities for UH students and faculty to participate in internships, applied research, and industry collaborations.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your **favorable consideration of SB2693**. This measure aligns with long-term economic, educational, and workforce priorities vital to the people of Hawai'i Island and statewide communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christian Andersen

PISCES Director of Research

Associate Director, Hawai'i Space Grant Consortium

University of Hawai'i at Hilo

LATE

SB-2693

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:48:57 PM
Testimony for TRS on 2/10/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katie Taladay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Members of the Hawai‘i State Senate

Re: Support for Senate Bill SB2693: Capital Improvement Project for Aerospace Infrastructure

Aloha Chairs Inouye and DeCoite, and Members of the Senate Committee,

As an economic developer working to grow Hawai‘i’s innovation economy with a particular focus on aerospace and space-adjacent industries, I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill SB2693 (2026).

SB2693 would authorize \$15 million for the planning, design, and construction of an aerospace hangar and related infrastructure at Hilo International Airport, contingent on matching federal and private investment. This approach reflects exactly the kind of strategic, leverage-driven public investment Hawai‘i needs to build a more diversified and resilient economy.

As Hawai‘i continues to expand its role in aerospace, advanced aviation, and space-domain activities, purpose-built infrastructure is essential. Hawai‘i’s geographic position in the Pacific, proximity to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, and existing research, aviation, and space-related assets uniquely position the state to support aerospace testing, operations, and applied research. SB2693 represents a forward-looking investment that will:

- **Leverage State Dollars to Attract Outside Capital.** The required dollar-for-dollar match ensures that state funds catalyze significant federal and private-sector investment, multiplying the economic impact while reducing long-term risk to taxpayers.
- **Strengthen Workforce Pathways for Local Residents.** Aerospace infrastructure supports high-wage, high-skill jobs across engineering, aviation, advanced manufacturing, data, and systems operations. These facilities may create tangible career pathways for Hawai‘i Island residents and help retain local talent that might otherwise leave the state.
- **Advance Regional and Statewide Economic Growth.** Investment at Hilo International Airport will stimulate near-term construction activity while enabling long-term operational, research, and defense-related collaborations. This strengthens Hawai‘i Island’s role within the broader state and national innovation ecosystem.
- **Support Education–Industry Alignment.** Hawai‘i’s education and research institutions already contribute to aerospace relevant education and research. Proximate infrastructure enables deeper collaboration through work-based learning, internships, applied research,

and other workforce training programs that directly connects students to real-world industry needs.

From my perspective, SB2693 is an enabling platform for workforce development, industry growth, and federal partnership. It aligns strongly with Hawai‘i’s long-term economic diversification goals and the urgent need to create local, future-ready career opportunities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of SB2693. Mahalo for your leadership and your continued commitment to building a strong and resilient future for Hawai‘i.

Sincerely,

Katie Taladay